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Title : Alleged denial of bank loans in Tsunami affected areas.

*DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): The occurrence of Tsunami disaster is nearing its 1st anniversary on 26th December 2005. In Tsunami affected coastal area, villagers lost their houses, belongings and all of their livelihood. Government is trying to rehabilitate the affected areas. But it is not yet completed especially the occupational rehabilitation. Majority of the fishermen were not given fishing

*The speech was laid on the Table.

boats, nets and other equipment needed for fishing. Most of them had acquired their fishing utensils by availing loans from the banks and other financial agencies. But since they had lost all in Tsunami and occupational rehabilitations had not yet done, they are in debt trap and unable to pay the loans. Banks are not giving loans to them. There are incidences that even educational loans were denied to the children of fishermen in Tsunami affected areas. So, I urge upon the Government that the existing loan of the fishermen, fish merchants and other merchants in the Tsunami areas should be written off and enquiry should be conducted on the complaints of denial of Bank loans in the Tsunami affected areas and directions should be given to the Banks in these areas to liberalise the norms to give loans to the applicants from Tsunami areas.